

January 2006 - Review of Weather Including Temperatures and Precipitation for the Quad State Region.

Weather Summary for January 2006

Precipitation

January was a very active and record-setting month across the region. Much needed rainfall brought an end to the minor drought that was beginning to set up across the western and southern parts of the Hydrologic Service Area. Most locations ended the month with above normal precipitation. Paducah ended January with 6.28 inches, 2.81 inches above normal; making it the 8th wettest January on record. As impressive as this was, the most talked about weather for the month was the temperatures. The region was 10 to 13 degrees above normal (31 to 33 degrees). In Paducah, January 2006 tied January 1950 as the warmest January on record with an average temperature of 44 degrees. At Evansville, it was only the third warmest January on record but the warmest January since 1933.

January hit the ground running with what would be a series of storm systems that moved across the region every 3 to 4 days. The first front passed over the area between the 2nd and 3rd. Rainfall totals were generally less than one-quarter inch, however there were scattered amounts between one-half and three-quarters of an inch. Temperatures were extremely mild with highs pushing into the 60s most days. A cold front, with actual cold air behind it, slammed into the quad state on the 4th. Post-frontal precipitation was very light and as temperatures fell, some of the rain changed over to snow.

A dry cold front passed through on the 8th followed by more potent systems on the 10th and 13th. Showers and even thunderstorms brought brief but heavy downpours that caused minor flooding in areas with poor drainage. Rainfall totals during these two events averaged between 1.50 and 2.50 inches. Temperatures that had, once again, been in the 60s dropped to more normal highs in the 40s.

Two more storm systems, on the 16th-17th and 20th-23rd, brought more rounds of showers. Rainfall between the 16th and 17th totaled between one-half and one inch. Toward the end of the event, rain changed over to snow. Some northern counties received one to two inches of snow. The second system passed through quickly but stalled just to our south. Several rounds of generally light precipitation occurred producing totals between one-half and 1.50 inches. The final storm system of the month was rather robust producing windy and mild conditions out ahead of it and plunging temperatures behind it. Rainfall totals varied greatly, ranging from one-quarter of an inch to a little over an inch.

Figure 1. January 2006 Average Daily Temperature Summaries (Degrees F) for Several Quad State Region Locations.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TEMPERATURES</u>	<u>HIGH</u>	<u>LOW</u>	<u>AVERAGE</u>
<i>Carbondale Illinois</i>	Normal (94 years)	39.7	21.0	30.6
	2006	52.1	33.2	42.9
<i>Cape Girardeau Missouri</i>	Normal (30 years)	40.5	23.8	32.4
	2006	53.2	32.5	43.1
<i>Evansville Indiana</i>	Normal (30 years)	39.4	23.2	31.5
	2006	52.1	33.4	43.0
<i>Paducah Kentucky</i>	Normal (30 years)	42.2	25.0	33.9
	2006	54.3	33.6	44.2
<i>Poplar Bluff Missouri</i>	Normal (30 years)	41.9	23.2	32.7
	2006	54.9	33.6	44.6

Figure 2. January Average Monthly Precipitation (inches) and 2006 Observed Precipitation for Several Quad State Region Locations.

<u>LOCATION</u>		<u>TOTAL PRECIPITATION</u>	<u>2005 DEPARTURE</u>
		(includes melted snow)	<u>FROM NORMAL</u>
<i>Carbondale Illinois</i>	Normal:	3.03	1.26
	2006:	4.29	
<i>Cape Girardeau Missouri</i>	Normal:	3.27	1.11
	2006:	4.38	
<i>Evansville Indiana</i>	Normal:	2.91	1.18
	2006:	4.09	
<i>Paducah Kentucky</i>	Normal:	3.47	2.81
	2006:	6.28	
<i>Poplar Bluff Missouri</i>	Normal:	2.96	0.93
	2006:	3.89	

